

# THE ORDER FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

*The minister, coming to the font which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following or some other suitable exhortation:*

Dearly Beloved, for as much as all persons are by nature sinful, and that our Savior Christ said none can enter into the kingdom of God except they be regenerated and born anew of water and of the Holy Spirit. I beg of you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His plentiful mercy He will grant to **this child** that which by nature **s/he** cannot have; that **s/he** may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's Holy Church and be made a lively member of the same.

***Then shall the Minister pray (first for the candidate, then to sanctify the water):***

*Let us Pray...* Almighty and Everlasting God, who of Your great mercy did save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water (1 Peter 3:20,21); and also did safely lead the children of Israel, Your people, through the Red Sea, figuring thereby holy baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1,2); and by the baptism of your well beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in the river of Jordan, did sanctify water for this holy sacrament (Matthew 3:13-17), we beseech You of Your infinite mercies that You would look upon **this child** and wash **him/her** with the Holy Spirit, that **s/he** being received into the ark of Christ's church and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, may so pass the ways of this troublesome world; that finally **s/he** may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with You, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen...

Almighty, everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins did shed out of his precious side both water and blood, and gave commandments to his disciples that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19); regard, we ask, the prayers of this congregation. Sanctify this water for this holy sacrament (**here the Minister places her/his hand on the font**); and grant that **this child** now to be baptized may receive the fullness of grace, and ever remain in the number of Thy faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Then shall the Minister address the parents or guardians:***

**Minister:** Who presents this child for the Sacrament of Christian Baptism? ***The Parents or Guardians of the child will answer by giving their own name.***

**Minister:** Do you accept the responsibility to see that **s/he** be taught the nature and meaning of this holy sacrament?

**Parents/Guardians:** We do.

**Minister:** Will you, by personal example, live before **this child** a life that becomes the gospel? Will you encourage **him/her** to give regular attendance to the appointed means of grace, such as the ministry of the Word, the public and private worship of God?

**Parents/Guardians:** We will.

**Minister:** In order that **s/he** may know these things better, will you read and encourage **her/him** to read the holy scriptures, learn the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Catechism, and all other things a Christian ought to know and believe to **his/her** souls health, in order that **s/he** may be brought up to lead a virtuous and holy life, remembering always that baptism does represent unto us that inward purity which inclines us to follow the example of our Savior, Christ?

**Parents/Guardians:** We will.

**Minister:** Will you teach **her/him** that Christ died and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die unto sin and rise again unto righteousness?

**Parents/Guardians:** We will.

**Minister:** Will you continually encourage the subduing of all corrupt affections and daily endeavor to see that **s/he** grow in virtue and godliness?

**Parents/Guardians:** We will.

***Then shall the people stand up, and the minister shall say:***

Hear the words of the gospel written by Saint Mark in the 10th chapter beginning at the 13th verse:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (NIV84)

***Then the minister shall take the child into his/her hands and say to the parents of the child:***

Name this child.

***And then, naming the child after them, the minister shall sprinkle or pour water upon the child, or if desired, immerse the child in the water one time, saying:***

**[CHRISTIAN NAME OF CHILD ONLY]**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

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**Minister:** Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care **[Child's Christian Name]** whom we do this day recognize as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that **s/he** may grow in the knowledge and love of God the Father, through our Savior, Jesus Christ?

**Congregation:** **With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal!**

***Then shall the minister say this prayer...***

Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, grant that **[Child's Christian Name]**, as **s/he** grows in years, may also grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the restraining and renewing influence of the Holy Spirit **s/he** may ever be a true child of yours, serving you faithfully all **her/his** days. So guide and uphold the parents and guardians of this child that by loving care, wise counsel, and holy example, they may lead **him/her** into that life of faith whose strength is righteousness and whose fruit is everlasting joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN!**

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